

**CLAIMS**

What is claimed is:

- 1           1.       A method for organizing images, comprising:  
2           analyzing images;  
3           detecting attributes of the images;  
4           comparing the detected attributes to identify images having a similar attribute;  
5   and  
6           associating images having the similar attribute to automatically generate an  
7   attribute-based album.
- 1           2.       The method of claim 1, wherein detecting attributes comprises  
2   detecting content attributes.
- 1           3.       The method of claim 2, wherein detecting content attributes comprises  
2   detecting faces contained in the images.
- 1           4.       The method of claim 2, wherein detecting content attributes comprises  
2   detecting scenes contained in the images.
- 1           5.       The method of claim 1, wherein detecting attributes comprises  
2   detecting time attributes.

1           6.     The method of claim 5, wherein detecting time attributes comprises  
2     detecting dates and times of day on which images were captured.

1           7.     The method of claim 1, wherein comparing the detected attributes  
2     comprises comparing image attributes stored in a database associated with original  
3     images.

1           8.     The method of claim 1, further comprising storing images downloaded  
2     on a particular date in a date-based folder within a protected originals folder.

1           9.     The method of claim 8, further comprising creating a date-based album  
2     separate from the date-based folder that identifies images stored in the date-based  
3     folder.

1           10.    The method of claim 9, wherein creating a date-based album comprises  
2     creating a database that identifies the locations of the images stored in the date-based  
3     folder.

1           11.    The method of claim 10, further comprising storing in the date-based  
2     album modified versions of images stored in the date-based folder.

1           12.     A method for organizing images, comprising:  
2           analyzing images by detecting content attributes contained in the images and  
3           time attributes that indicate when the images were captured;  
4           storing the images in a protected originals folder in which images are  
5           protected from deletion and modification;  
6           creating a date-based album comprising a database that identifies locations of  
7           images stored in the protected originals folder that were downloaded on a particular  
8           date and modified versions of those images, if any;  
9           comparing the content attributes and the time attributes of images to identify  
10          images having a common attribute; and  
11          automatically generating an attribute-based album that comprises images  
12          having the common attribute.

1           13.     The method of claim 12, wherein detecting content attributes  
2           comprises detecting faces and scenes contained in the images.

1           14.     The method of claim 12, wherein detecting time attributes comprises  
2           determining the dates and times of day on which the images were captured.

1           15.     The method of claim 12, wherein automatically generating an attribute-  
2           based album comprises creating a database that identifies locations of the images  
3           comprising the common attribute whether stored in the protected originals folder or  
4           the date-based album.

1           16.     The method of claim 12, wherein analyzing images further comprises  
2     querying a user for identification information regarding at least one of a detected face  
3     or scene.

1           17.     The method of claim 16, further comprising storing identification  
2     information provided by the user in response to the querying.

1           18.     The method of claim 12, further comprising storing results of the  
2     image analysis in at least one database under the protected originals folder.

1           19.     The method of claim 18, wherein comparing the content attributes and  
2     the time attributes comprises comparing content attributes and time attributes  
3     contained within the at least one protected originals folder database.

1           20.     A system for organizing images, comprising:  
2             means for detecting attributes of images;  
3             means for storing the images in a protected originals folder and for storing  
4     modified images in a date-based album;  
5             means for creating a database for the date-based album that identifies locations  
6     of images stored in the protected originals folder;  
7             means for comparing the attributes of images to identify images having a  
8     common attribute; and  
9             means for automatically generating an attribute-based album that comprises  
10    images having the common attribute.

1           21.    The system of claim 20, wherein the means for detecting comprise  
2   means for detecting content attributes including faces and scenes and means for  
3   determining dates and times of day when the images were captured.

1           22.    The system of claim 20, wherein the means for automatically  
2   generating an attribute-based album comprise means for creating a database that  
3   identifies locations of the images comprising the common attribute.

1           23.    A method for locating images, comprising:  
2           prompting a user to identify at least one image attribute;  
3           receiving an identified image attribute;  
4           analyzing at least one database of image attributes to identify images  
5   comprising the identified attribute; and  
6           presenting the identified images to the user.

1           24.     An image management system stored on a computer-readable medium,  
2     comprising:

3           an image analysis module that includes logic that is configured to detect  
4     content attributes contained in the images and time attributes that indicate when the  
5     images were captured;

6           an image storage module that includes logic that is configured to store images  
7     in a protected originals folder in which images are protected from deletion and  
8     modification and further configured to store modified versions of the images in date-  
9     based albums; and

10          an album generation module that includes logic that is configured to  
11     automatically-generate attribute-based albums that comprise images having at least  
12     one common attribute.

1           -25.    The system of claim 24, wherein the logic of the image analysis  
2     module is configured to detect faces and scenes contained in the images and to  
3     determine dates and times of day when the images were captured.

1           26.     The system of claim 24, wherein the logic of the album generation  
2     module is configured to compare the content attributes and the time attributes of  
3     images to identify images having a common attribute.

1           27.     The system of claim 24, further comprising an image search module  
2     that includes logic configured to search databases of image attributes to locate  
3     particular images desired by a user.